

**Session #:** 1116  
**Day/Time:** Thursday, November 15; 3:00 – 4:00  
**Title:** Home Health Medication Education: How to Ensure Compliance While Remaining within the Scope of Practice  
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### **Overview of Presentation:**

For many older adults, the ability to remain independent in one's home depends on the ability to manage a complicated medication regimen. Older adults are the largest users of prescription medication, yet with advancing age they are more vulnerable to adverse reactions to the medication they are taking. Approximately 30 percent of hospital admissions of older adults are drug related, with more than 11 percent attributed to medication non-adherence and 10-17 percent related to adverse drug reactions. Older adults discharged from the hospital on more than five drugs are more likely to visit the emergency department and be re-hospitalized during the first 6 months after discharge. (Merek & Antle; 2008)

To mitigate risk, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) established multiple incentives for home health agencies (HHA's) to participate in medication management. These include penalties for re-hospitalization, positive financial incentives impacted by STAR ratings and patient satisfaction surveys. As of January 13, 2018, CMS has included medication instruction as a mandatory condition of participation (COP)

In order to be compliant with the COPs, home health agencies must ensure that medication instruction is provided and documented for all patients. The SLP should not be excluded from this responsibility however, many are tenuous in providing this services. Reasons may be due to knowledge deficit with regard to pharmacology, state licensure parameters, or scope of practice. A cautious approach to medication education will help guide the SLP to determine what the best practice for this requirement is. Gathering all of the data and information highlighted in this presentation will empower the SLP to decide to move forward or defer to another professional. Having the necessary knowledge, tools and resources may assist the SLP in deciding to move forward with this important responsibility to their homebound patients, thus maintaining the value of their service within the home health industry.

### **Objectives:**

1. Demonstrate understanding of the Conditions of Participation (COP) requirements regarding medication education/management
2. Demonstrate understanding of the ASHA Scope of Practice and Code of Ethics related to medication education/management
3. Understand and apply basic principles of medication education/management for optimal quality patient care and adherence to the COPs

### **General Outline:**

- I. General Background
  1. Reasons for Medication Errors/Reactions

2. The Home Health Agencies Role in Medication Management
  3. Conditions of Participation
  4. Medication Reconciliation
  5. ASHA Scope of Practice
- II. The SLP's Role in Medication Management
1. Application of Basic Principles
  2. SLP Role: Cognition/Communication
  3. SLP Role: Physical Barriers
  4. SLP Role: Documentation
- III. Treatment Ideas
1. Creative Strategies for Medication Management Activities
  2. Helpful Resource Tools

**References:**

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (2018); *Medication errors and adverse drug events in the elderly*; Accessed at <https://psnet.ahrq.gov/primers/primer/23/medication-errors-and-adverse-drug-events> on June 2, 2018

American Speech-Language and Hearing Association-Ethics; Accessed at <http://www.asha.org/policy/ET2008-00285.htm> on March 27, 2018

American Speech-Language and Hearing Association – Scope of Practice; Accessed at <http://www.asha.org/policy/SP2007-00283.htm> on March 27, 2018

Federal Register, Medicare and Medicaid Program; Conditions of Participation for Home Health Agencies; Delay of Effective Date, on the internet at <http://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/07/10/2017-14347/medicare-and-medicaid-programs-conditions-of-particiatipn-for-home-health-agencies-delay-of/htm>; visited on March 15, 2018.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; Centers for Clinical Standards and Quality/Quality, Safety & Oversight Group (2018) *Home Health Agency (HHA) Interpretive Guidelines*

Marek, KD., Antel, L. Medication Management of the Community-Dwelling Older Adult. In: Hughes RG, editor. *Patient Safety and Quality: An Evidence-Based Handbook for Nurses*. Rockville MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (US); 2008 Apr. Chapter 18. Available from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK2670/>

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